Since landlords have not been undertaking repairs to flats of which Bank is a satutory tenant a few flats are in need of repairs. Steps are being taken by BRI to carry out the repairs to such flats after giving sufficient notice to the landlords.

Religion and castes columns in application forms for government jobs

2737. SHRI RAMSINGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHAVAKOLI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the application forms for Government jobs, educational institutions application for passports and many other such application forms contain a column asking caste and/or religion of the candidates;

(b) whether it is necessary to know the caste and/or religion of a candidate; and

(c) if so, what is the reasons thereof and if not, why this practice is being continued?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) In the application forms for examinations and recruitments there is a column asking the candidate to indicate whether he belongs to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe. He is not required to specify his caste if he does not belong to Scheduled Caste. If he claims to belong to Scheduled Caste, he is required to state his religion also. Others not belonging to Scheduled Castes are not required to state their religion. There is no column in the passport application form requiring an applicant to specify his caste and/or religion.

(b) and (c) Asking candidates to indicate whether they belong to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes is necessary to consider the candidates' eligibility for various concessions permissible to those belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes in respect of age, fee, qualifications, number of chances at the examination, reservation of postss, etc. It is necessary to as certain the religion of such candidates in order to verify their claims as belonging to Scheduled Castes.

System of accounts of major public sector companies

2738. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the system of accounts of the major public sector companies under the Ministry of Finance have been found not upto the mark; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and to the extent available and permissible under the statutes, willl be laid on the Table of the House.

Taking over of Punjab and Sind Bank, London Branch by Bank of Baroda

2739. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the London Branch of Punjab & Sind Bank has been taken over by Bank of Baroda;

(b) whether it is a fact that since its opening unauthorised advances in crores of rupees have been given and now these have become bad and doubtful advances;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no accountability has been fixed for such heavy amounts of unauthorised advances; and

(d) if so, the details and action taken thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that the assets and liabilities of the Southall (London) Branch of Punjab and Sind Bank have been transferred to Bank of Baroda with effect from the close of business on 31-1-1987.

(b) to (d) Punjab and Sind Bank has reported that its officials at Southall (London) branch had sanctioned/allowed some advances beyond their delegated powers. Some of these advances have become doubtful of recovery. Bank has initiated action for recovery of the dues. The Bank has taken action against one of the Branch Managers. The other Branch Manager resigned from the Bank's service.

Unauthorised advances by Mohali branch of Punjab and Sind Bank

2740. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Branch Manager of Punjab and Sind Bank—Mohali District (Punjab) has given unauthorised advances more than 50 lacs to different parties; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) and (b) Punjab & Sind Bank has reported that some advances made unauthorisedly by the Branch Manager have come to their notice. The amount of such advances as reported by the Regional Manager is about Rs. 19.00 lakhs. The Head Office of the tax has written to the Zonal Manager to take discipinary action against the Branch Manager. Meanwhile the powers of the Branch Manager has been suspended and the bank is investigating further in the matter.

Frauds on Punjab & Sind Bank committed by M/s. Oriental Motors and M|s. Dashmesh Tractors

2741. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question (a) 2756 dated 2nd December, 1986 in Rajya Sabha regarding the complaints against M/s. Oriental Motors and M/s. Dashmesh Tractors about their involvement in frauds amounting to three crores of Rupees in Bhatinda area branches of Punjab & Sind Bank and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the credit limits of the above concerns were freezed and later on released; if so, the reason thereof;

(b) whetehr it is a fact that the staff members of Bhatinda Branches have been given credit accommodation in the names of their relations unauthorisedly; and

(c) if so, the details and action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) In accordance with the provisions of the statutes governing the nationalised banks and in accordance with the practices and usages customary among bankers, the information relating to, or the affairs of individual constituents cannot be divulged.

(b) and (c) Punjab & Sind Bank has reported that according to the Branch Manager(s) of its Bhatinda Branches no such advance exists in which the borrower is a relative of any of the staff members. The Bank has, however, reported that, in another letter received from the General Secretary, All India Punjab & Sind Bank Officers Federation (Reg.), it has been mentioned that certain accounts re-